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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 81,287 | Nifty 25,178 | Gold 1,61,730 | Silver 2,71,400 | Dollar 91.08 | Euro 107.28 | GBP 123.01

AGE OF FEAR

Lakhs of Kannadigas caught in uncertainty as aftershocks of US-Israel attack on Iran felt across Gulf nations

PAGE 5

WINNING STROKE

India seal semifinal berth riding on Sanju Samson's batting prowess; South Africa hold on to their unbeaten form against Zimbabwe

PAGE 9

With no jeep fire engine that can enter the biopark on Jnanabharathi campus, the fire station can do nothing but watch as frequent fires gut plants, saplings during summer

WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOING ON HERE?

University plans to keep vigil on those who set garbage, dry leaves ablaze on campus

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KAUSHIK JN

A fire that broke out on Saturday at Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi campus and damaged several trees, has brought a burning issue once again into the fore. Environmentalists and people, who visit Jnanabharathi campus for walks, have expressed concern about fire mishaps that take place on the campus every year, especially in summer. They have called on the university administration to take concrete measures to address this problem and save trees on the campus.

The environmentalists complain that many trees at Biopark Sector 1 were damaged in Saturday's fire. They suggested that the administration increase vigil on miscreants, who are responsible for setting dry leaves and dry waste on fire, which damages trees and saplings. They have also said that it is not the first time that a fire mishap has damaged trees and vegetation on the campus.

"Jnanabharathi campus is meant for helping and guiding students pursuing higher education but garbage and dry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

> "Fire mishaps are taking place on a regular basis but the authorities have done nothing to end this menace. I also found dry waste and garbage dumped on the campus
>
> —Gowdaiah, social activist

Lost tongues

CIIL Mysuru's findings place Hakkipikki, Jenu Kurumba, Soliga and Siddi under national endangered languages list

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Four tribal languages native to Karnataka — Hakkipikki, Jenu Kurumba, Soliga and Siddi have been officially listed as endangered in a recent Parliament submission, placing the state at the centre of India's linguistic preservation debate.

The disclosure came through a written reply in the Lok Sabha, where the Ministry of Culture and Tourism outlined the government's ongoing efforts to protect languages spoken by fewer than 10,000 people. With all four communities concentrated in regions stretching from Mysuru and Chamarajanagar to Uttara Kannada and Belagavi, Karnataka now emerges as one of the states with multiple vulnerable language traditions.

According to the Ministry, India recorded 121 languages in the 2011 Census, but only a fraction of them are actively supported through formal literary platforms. This gap is partly bridged by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysuru, which leads the national Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL). In its first phase, the project selected 117 languages across India for documentation, including the four from Karnataka. The inclusion is significant because these languages reflect unique ecological, cultural and historical contexts: the Hakkipikki's itinerant trade routes,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Citizens unite for a cleaner B'luru

With participation from over 1,800, cleanliness drive under Swachh Survekshan initiative sees broad support; citizens clear large amounts of waste in multiple projects across city

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Bengaluru witnessed an enthusiastic response to the ongoing Swachh Survekshan 2025–2026 preparations, with multiple cleanliness and awareness drives held across the city. The Bengaluru North City Corporation launched a Mega Cleanliness Drive from March 1 to March 6 across all wards, focusing on cleaning vacant sites, lakes and drains, footpaths, GVP elimination, blackspot beautification, and intensive IEC activities in schools and public spaces. Over 1,823 participants took part on March 1 and nearly 36 tonnes of waste was cleared.

As part of the initiative, several wards including Jakkur, Thanisandra, Byatarayanapura, Kodigehalli, Vidyaranyapura, Doddabommasandra and Kuvempunagara saw coordinated action. Drives was carried out in different locations in Rajajinagar and Yelahanka, including Jakkur Lake, Rachenahalli Lake, Amruthahalli Lake, Telecom Layout, Talakaveri Layout, HMT Layout 6th Block, and MS Palya, among others, with participation from residents' welfare associations (RWAs), students and other organisations.

Programme emphasised need for effective waste management, including waste segregation, non-littering and saying no to plastics

A vibrant plogathon was conducted at Horamavu Lake, where nearly 80–100 citizens and 50–60 schoolchildren participated. The event was led by Plog Raja and supported by 20–30 Solid Waste Management (SWM) staff under the leadership of Chief Marshal Basavaraj. The programme began with a workshop-style awareness session covering the full spectrum of waste management, which emphasised saying no to plastics, illustrated with real-life examples, and highlighted practices such as waste segregation, non-littering, and the principles of RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Participants then took a pledge to practise and propagate these learnings in their daily lives. This was followed by a two-hour plogging session, during which volunteers collected nearly 20 to 25 bags of plastic litter from around the lake premises.

The Indian Ploggers Army also carried out a plogging drive from Cubbon Metro up to Vidhana Soudha, with over 45 students from St Joseph's College Bembala Club joining the effort. The team insisted on segregation at source, avoiding disposables and using the right bins in public places.

In another significant effort, the Bengaluru West City Corporation undertook a blackspot elimination and beautification drive at Subbanna Garden Main Road in Govindraj Nagar Division. The team completed 30 metres of wall painting with Swachh Survekshan 2025–2026 awareness messages, transforming a blackspot into a visually appealing space.

FORM-IV
(See Rule-8)

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Sd/-
LOKESH K V
Publisher

Date: 02.03.2026

Student denied hall ticket over unpaid fees

In a shocking incident in Ranebennur, a second-year PU science student was allegedly denied her exam hall ticket by a private college over unpaid fees, forcing her family to scramble at the last minute to ensure she could write her examination. The management reportedly withheld the admit card for nearly a week and allegedly humiliated her parents when they approached the institution. When the girl's father Raju, accompanied by his friend Shivaputrappa, went to the college on Saturday fearing her future would be affected, the management is said to have displayed arrogance and even held back the bike key of the accompanying person who had parked inside the campus. The student was eventually allowed to appear for the exam only after the confrontation.

Farmer leader Hanumanthappa Kabbar has demanded legal action against the institution. Block Education Officer Shyamasundar said a notice has been issued to the college and an inquiry is underway. The teacher concerned, identified as Sunita, has been suspended for allegedly denying the hall ticket over non payment of fees. **— BMB**

Robots, AI to take centre stage at IISc Open Day on March 7

The Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru is gearing up for its annual Open Day on March 7, where cutting-edge models in science and technology, including robots, artificial intelligence systems and climate monitoring devices, will be showcased to the public. With 42 departments and six interdisciplinary centres participating, visitors can explore live experiments and demonstrations across chemical sciences, electrical and electronics engineering, computer science and several emerging research areas. Robotics is expected to draw special attention this year, with advanced machines including load-carrying robots and other innovative prototypes on display.

The event will be held from 9 am to 5 pm and is open to all. Entry is free. While private vehicles will not be allowed inside the campus, electric vehicles will be arranged for senior citizens, pregnant women and those in need of assistance. Help desks will guide visitors through the venue. Educational institutions can register online, though individuals may also walk in directly. IISc officials said that the Open Day offers a rare opportunity for students and the public to witness scientific experiments first hand, interact with researchers and clarify their questions directly with scientists. **— BMB**

Revenue Department restricts RTC-based property transactions

The Revenue Department has barred any property transactions based on RTC records once an e-Khata and property ID have been generated for a land parcel. After conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use, the land is flagged as NA in the Bhoomi software, and registration can no longer be carried out using the RTC alone. Authorities have also restricted the cancellation of existing e-property IDs or reversal of land conversion once the digital records are created. Registration must now be done strictly on the basis of the e-Khata and property identification number. Revenue Commissioner Meena Nagaraj C has issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars to implement the order, and the Inspector General of Registration has been informed. The move comes amid concerns over rising disputes due to illegal transactions. **— BMB**

THINGS TO DO

01 Artsy side

Internationally recognised visual artist Dr Akhter Husain presents Vedic Inspirations, a solo exhibition exploring India's spiritual and civilisational heritage through a contemporary visual language. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: Until March 8, 10.30 am to 6 pm**

02 Resonance of roots

Atta Galatta is hosting 'Journey of a Song-150 years of Vande Mataram', taking the audience on a journey through stories, anecdotes, facts, myths and misgivings surrounding 'Vande Mataram'. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 7, 7 pm**

03 Leap of wonder

The 12th Attakkalari India Biennial presents the second contemporary dance production by Italian choreographer Raphael Bianco, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Mumbai and Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru. **Where: Alliance Francaise De Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar; When: March 3, 7 pm**

04 Story time

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Until March 15, 10 am**

05 Musical celebration

Ekatvam, an initiative of the Entrust Foundation, is bringing the Holi Music Fest 2026, a grand three-day celebration of musical togetherness, artistic excellence, and cultural heritage. **Where: The Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi; When: March 6, 7 & 8, 5 pm**

IN HIGH COURT

Land acquisition termed daylight dacoity on farmers

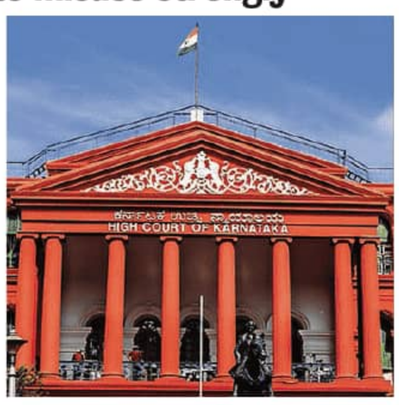
Court slams agricultural land acquisition from poor farmers, questions public purpose, restores land, warns against private misuse strongly

Karnataka High Court has come down heavily on the acquisition of agricultural land from poor farmers in Bengaluru, describing the exercise as nothing short of a "daylight dacoity". The court observed that the manner in which the land was taken and allotted raised concerns about whether the public purpose was genuine.

A division bench comprising Justices DK Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju was hearing an appeal over 36 guntas of land in Devarabeesanahalli village. The land had been acquired by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board and allotted to Royal Fragrances Limited.

In its judgment, the bench remarked that acquiring lands from marginal farmers and transferring them to entities under the pretext of development amounted to a "daylight dacoity on the lands of poor farmers." The court underscored that the power of compulsory acquisition must be exercised strictly for a public purpose and not to advance private interests.

The judges noted that while the acquisition was projected as being for a software park, the companies did not appear to have substantial background in the software industry. The bench found it troubling that a company that applied for a smaller extent of land was allotted a larger area. Such circumstances, the court observed, created an impression that the acquisition was structured for real estate gains rather than industry.



Division bench comprising Justices DK Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju was hearing an appeal over 36 guntas of land in Devarabeesanahalli village

Emphasising constitutional safeguards, the court stated that the State cannot deprive citizens of property except in accordance with law and for a genuine public purpose. Any deviation, it observed, would render the action arbitrary and unsustainable. Setting aside an earlier single-judge order that favoured the allottee company, the division bench upheld the denotification of the land, restoring relief to affected landowners and reiterating that the State's power of acquisition cannot be misused to benefit private players at the cost of vulnerable farmers.

— BMB

Gender bias? 'Don't be liberal with adjournments'

The Karnataka High Court recently emphasised that family courts should not be "liberal in giving adjournments only because a litigant is a woman", making it clear that procedural compassion cannot be misused to delay justice.

The observation came while the court was considering a challenge to a family court order in a long-running divorce case. The woman, a resident of Kanakapura, had repeatedly sought adjournments over the years and asked for more time to complete the cross-examination of her husband. The matrimonial dispute had first begun in 2019 and had involved numerous hearings on interim matters.

In dismissing her plea, the High Court noted that she had taken many adjournments on various grounds and failed to complete her husband's cross-examination despite an earlier direction from the High Court in July 2024 that it should be completed "in one go". The bench observed that such conduct not only slows down the proceedings but also goes against the very purpose of timely justice.

The court squarely rejected the idea that procedural rules should be stretched merely because the party seeking relief was a woman. In its order, the High Court stated that "neither Family Courts Act nor Code of Civil Procedure can be used to frustrate the proceedings or to cause inconvenience either to the other party or to the courts." This remark underscored the principle that legal provisions cannot be wielded as tools to postpone the progress of a case indefinitely.

The petition was therefore dismissed, and costs imposed on petitioner.

— BMB

Holiday fire guts Anjanapura foam godown

A foam mattress godown caught fire in Anjanapura on Sunday morning, gutting the entire building and damaging five vehicles. As it was a holiday, no casualties were reported. The fire department received a call at 8.35 am and reached by 8.39 am. District Fire Officer Manjunath B said 50 personnel in eight vehicles responded. "Due to lack of fire safety systems, the building suffered severe damage. We suspect a short circuit," he said. CCTV showed flames at 7.50 am. Firefighters contained the blaze by 11.20 am and fully controlled it by 5.30 pm, preventing spread to apartments. Minor damage occurred to one adjacent building, two persons were rescued, and losses are yet to be assessed. Officials urged owners to install alarms and extinguishers for quicker emergency response in dense storage areas citywide.

— BMB

Man murders family, files fake missing complaint

A man, who had reported to the police that his family was missing, is now suspected of their murder in Tilaknagar police station limits. Akshay BJ had lodged a complaint that his father Bheemaraj H, mother Jayalakshmi J and sister Amrita were missing. The police have now found that Akshay was involved in their murder and his uncle Vasanth helped him bury the bodies. During the probe, one of the cops gave a call to Amrita's mobile phone, only to find it ringing in Akshay's trouser pocket. This pointed to Akshay's involvement. The cops also retrieved three SIM cards from him. Akshay used an axe to slit the victims' throats and later buried them in their Kottur home. Police say Akshay's father had sold a property in Harappanahalli for Rs 1.2 crore and given a portion of it to Akshay who spent it without his father knowing.

— BMB

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Railway gate queue hold-ups add to students' exam stress

Citizens demand timeline for Kaggadasapura rail overbridge as frequent train movement threatens to delay students on way to Board exams

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The railway gate at Kaggadasapura remains closed for extended periods due to frequent train movements

Mounting frustration over delays in construction of the Road over Bridge (RoB) at Kaggadasapura Railway Gate prompted residents on Friday to meet Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, urging expedited action and clarity on timelines. The delegation, led by resident Shachi Pathak, submitted a representation highlighting hardships faced by commuters due to frequent closures. Residents said the issue worsened with ongoing Class 10 and Class 12 examinations, as students struggled to reach centres on time due to congestion.

"With the railway gate remaining closed for extended periods due to frequent train movements, children appearing for board exams are under tremendous stress. Parents have raised serious concerns about delays and uncertainty. In response, many residents have stepped forward to voluntarily manage traffic movement during peak morning hours to help ease congestion," Pathak said.

Residents said preliminary work on the RoB appeared to have begun, but overall progress remained slow and unclear. "There is absolutely no official communication regarding the stages of execution, revised timelines, or expected completion date. The lack of transparency has only added to public anxiety," she added.

The RoB project has remained under discussion for years, with over 125 written representations submitted by apartment associations, institutions, and residents. Thousands signed petitions seeking completion. Residents also approached elected representatives, including Union Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and State officials, requesting intervention.

> **"There is absolutely no official communication regarding the stages of execution, revised timelines, or expected completion date. The lack of transparency has only added to public anxiety**
> – Shachi Pathak, resident of Kaggadasapura

Residents pointed out that authorities earlier cited land acquisition challenges as the primary reason for delay. However, Pathak said prolonged inaction indicated deeper administrative and political concerns. "While land acquisition was cited as a hurdle, we believe the real issue is the lack of political will to prioritise and complete this critical infrastructure project. The people of Kaggadasapura have waited long enough," said a resident.

The railway gate closes multiple times daily, causing traffic congestion, delays for office-goers, and risks for ambulances and emergency services. During peak hours, vehicle queues extend hundreds of metres, disrupting connectivity across surrounding areas every day.

During the meeting, residents urged immediate intervention to accelerate construction and ensure coordination between civic and railway authorities. They also demanded regular updates and a clear completion schedule.

"As an interim relief measure, we have requested that the Defence Research and Development Organisation consider permitting temporary public access to its existing overbridge until the RoB is completed. This could significantly reduce congestion and provide relief to residents," Pathak said. The commissioner assured residents he will visit the railway gate soon. Residents expressed cautious hope but stressed progress must follow assurances without further delays from concerned civic and railway authorities now immediately today.

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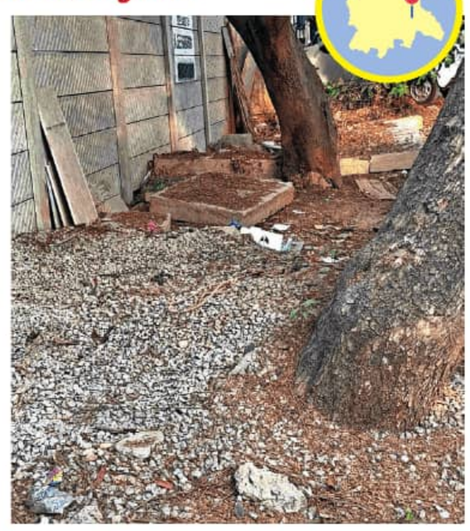
Crumbling stretch
Avenue Road

The junction at Avenue Road near Hospital Road is severely damaged, posing serious safety risks, especially for two-wheeler riders.

Debris dump
HSR Layout


Construction debris has remained unattended for over two years at 7th Sector, 21st Cross, HSR Layout, with residents questioning BBMP's inaction in clearing government land.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Costly addiction
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has arrived in Bengaluru for a seven-day natural therapy programme, sources said, highlighting a growing trend of North Indian politicians seeking the city's specialised wellness centres. The 52-year-old, who was admitted briefly to Chandigarh's Sangrur hospital on February 15 for health issues and discharged the next day, experienced fluctuations in his condition before returning home on February 19. It may be noted that when Arvind Kejriwal was Chief Minister of Delhi, he had been to Bengaluru multiple times for nature thearpy. This underscores Bengaluru's reputation as a hub for holistic health even among political leaders from outside Karnataka.

Surprise stoppage
What began as a routine village visit turned into a delightful surprise when KR Pet MLA H T Manju was stopped by a young girl in Attuppe village of Mandya district with a special request to wish her brother on his birthday. The legislator, who was there to review road development works, immediately stepped out of his car and surprised the birthday boy by personally greeting him, draping a shawl over his shoulders, garlanding him and presenting fruits. The unexpected gesture left the family and onlookers touched, as the MLA also advised the child to study well and grow into a responsible citizen.

Past shadows

Now jailed after being caught by Lokayukta officials while allegedly accepting a Rs 5 lakh bribe in connection with a road work, Shirahatti MLA Dr Chandru Lamani had earlier faced scrutiny over a far smaller amount. It has emerged that when he was serving as a doctor at the Shirahatti Taluk Hospital in 2018, he had run into trouble following allegations of misusing small registration fees collected from outpatients. At the time, the hospital was charging Rs 5 as an outpatient registration fee and Rs 50 for X-ray services. Sources indicate that complaints had surfaced over the handling of these collections, bringing him under the Lokayukta scanner as well.

Power play
Kolar MLA Kothur Manjunath has stirred controversy after alleging that the government violated protocol by not inviting him, the local representative, to a helicopter unit launch held on February 17, and in his criticism reportedly said those responsible should be "taught a lesson" by cutting power supply to the factory and even digging a trench in front of the company gate, adding that if BESCOM officials did not act, farmers could use their tractors to ram infrastructure to disrupt electricity, remarks that have drawn sharp backlash from political opponents who accused him of encouraging disruption of public utilities.

Voting paradox

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy flagged a curious dilemma, lamenting that "wherever I go, people gather, yet they do not vote for our party." He questioned why his party candidate SR Mahesh was defeated, asking, "What mistake did he make? If you select young people who have been plundering tax money daily, will they respond to your problems?" He acknowledged that just as Gujarat's Amul has excelled, Karnataka's KMF has reached new heights under the leadership of his brother HD Revanna. However, he criticised some for boasting about achievements in the dairy sector now, implying that credit is being taken unnecessarily.

Ceasefire?
There are no permanent friends or foes in politics, and this was evident when Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Muniratna recently visited Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at his residence. The meeting drew attention because Muniratna and DKS had shared a close personal rapport when Muniratna was with the Congress party. Their relationship soured after Muniratna joined the BJP and contributed to the defeat of DKS' brother, DK Suresh, in the parliamentary elections. Since then, the two had engaged in verbal clashes at JP Park and in the Assembly, with DKS openly criticising him. Following last week's meeting, Muniratna clarified that the visit was not about a ceasefire but aimed at pushing development projects in his constituency.

— **Sridhar Vivan**

GULF REGION SIMMERS

Tensions in West Asia leave families in K'taka on edge

Passengers from Karnataka remain stranded following cancellations of flights; families of expatriates in Arab countries continue to be distraught amid uncertainty and safety concerns

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The intensifying standoff between Iran and the combined forces of the United States and Israel is no longer a faraway headline. As the conflict threatens to spill deeper into Gulf nations, its ripple effect is being felt strongly in Bengaluru and across Karnataka.

This time, the anxiety is sharper. In earlier conflicts, the direct impact was largely limited to those working in Israel. Now, with key Arab countries in the crosshairs, lakhs of Kannadigas are caught in uncertainty.

More than a million people from the state are estimated to be working in West Asian nations. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates including Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman have long been home to coastal entrepreneurs and workers. What began with migration to Mumbai's trading circles decades ago gradually expanded to Dubai and other Gulf cities over the past 25 years.

Today, Kannadigas run hotels, textile businesses and exchange houses, and work in construction, transport, medical services and banking. Thousands are engineers, doctors, nurses and finance professionals. The remittances they send back have reshaped hometowns, powering real estate growth in Mangaluru and strengthening the education and healthcare sectors.

Families gripped by fear

Back home, families are glued to television screens and social media timelines. Every alert leads to hurried calls and video chats. "We speak to our son in Dubai three times a day now. He says things are normal where he is, but we cannot sleep peacefully," said a worried mother from the city.

Reports from Non Resident Indians suggest that anxiety is visible on the ground in some Gulf cities. Residents have reportedly rushed to malls to stock up on essentials following news of possible strikes. "In a few places, shelves were emptying quickly. There is no chaos, but people are cautious. Everyone is watching developments closely," said Mithun Raj, an NRI based in Dubai.

Such updates, shared widely on WhatsApp groups, have only added to the nervousness in Karnataka.

One advisory message circulating among expatriates urges people not to post unverified content about the Middle East conflict.

Flyers stranded in Bengaluru

Several passengers were left stranded at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru after multiple flights to Middle East destinations were cancelled amid the rising conflict between Iran and Israel. Widespread airspace closures across West Asia have disrupted international routes, affecting travellers bound for cities such as Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Long queues were seen at airline counters as passengers sought rebooking and refunds.

Village mourns Khamenei

A sombre mood has gripped Alipura village in Chikkaballapura district following reports of the death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei during the ongoing US-Israel strikes. Shops remained shut and residents wore black as they gathered for special prayers at the local mosque. Many were seen in tears. "Khamenei visited our village in 1986. We have a hospital named after him. This is a personal loss for us," said a village elder.

Govt assures safety

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured that the state government is taking all necessary steps to safeguard Kannadigas residing in the Middle East amid the escalating Iran-Israel conflict. The CM also confirmed that steps are being taken to assist those stranded in Dubai, including passengers from Ballari. The crisis intensified after coordinated strikes by Israel and the United States on Iranian sites led to retaliatory threats and airspace closures.

Legislators stranded

Several public representatives and residents from Karnataka remain stranded in Dubai following the closure of airspace in the United Arab Emirates. JD(S) MLC SL Bhojegowda, who was travelling from Johannesburg to Bengaluru via Dubai, said his flight was cancelled and passengers were deboarded without clarity on other arrangements. Ballari City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy and several tourists are stuck after flights were suspended.

K'taka activates emergency aid amid airspace closures

The Government of Karnataka has officially mobilised its emergency response machinery following significant disruptions to international flight operations caused by the ongoing conflict in several Middle Eastern countries.

According to Munish Moudgil, Relief Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, several nations have declared a closure of airspace (NOTAM), including Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the UAE, and Qatar. This widespread closure has left a substantial number of passengers from Karnataka stranded across the region, with a particularly high concentration of affected individuals reported in the UAE.

Helpline numbers of Indian embassies

Israel
Phone:
+972-54-7520711

Iran
Phone:
+98 912 810 9115
+98 912 810 9109
+98 912 810 9102
+98 993 217 9359

Saudi Arabia
Riyadh:
Landline: 00-966-11-4884697
WhatsApp: 00-966-542126748;
Toll-Free: 800 247 1234

Jeddah: Mobile: +966 556122301;
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Iraq English &
Hindi: +964 771 651 1185
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Palestine +970 592916418

In response to this developing crisis, and under the direct instructions of the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister, the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and all District Emergency Operations Centres (DEOCs) have been fully activated. These centres are now functioning 24/7 to monitor the situation and extend necessary assistance to those in need. The government is urging all residents of Karnataka currently in the affected Middle Eastern countries to strictly adhere to the guidelines and advisories by local governments. **BMB**

641 stolen mobile phones retrieved and returned to owners

In a special operation conducted by the police officials of East Division, 641 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 1.60 crore were recovered using the CEIR software. The Commissioner of Police, Seemant Kumar Singh, along with Ramesh B, Joint Commissioner of the East Division, returned the stolen mobile phones to their owners during a monthly public grievance meeting held in Indiranagar on February 28, 2026.

Since January 2026, police officials have been conducting a special operation. With the support of the CEIR software, a centralised database and ecosystem designed to enhance mobile device security by tracking International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI), they successfully retrieved the stolen mobile phones.

The police have cautioned citizens against cybercrimes, betting applications, and drug abuse, urging them to promptly report offences through official police portals to ensure swift action and recovery.

Authorities further stated that they will continue to conduct similar special operations to uphold law and order in the city. **BMB**

Foot patrol conducted to intensify vigil

Police officials from the North East Division conducted an extensive foot patrol operation across Yelahanka and Amruthahalli as per the directives of Commissioner of Police of Bengaluru on Saturday night. 14 police officials and staff meticulously patrolled major areas like crowded public spots, busy bus terminals, commercial districts, parks and other high-risk areas.

During the exercise, law enforcement personnel identified 19 individuals who were involved in suspicious activities. Alongside, two notorious rowdy sheeters were detained for questioning and subsequently issued stringent warnings to desist from disrupting law and order. The officials also looked out for anti-social elements and gave them warnings.

Officials have urged citizens to seek police help whenever they come across suspicious activities and to report crimes at the earliest. **BMB**

Fake IB letter on cybercrimes exposed

Officials from Hennur Police Station exposed a forged letter impersonating Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director Tapan Deka and Cyber Units, claiming an IP seizure for serious crimes like paedophilia, grooming and child porn under the POCSO Act and IT Act provisions. The document which threatened an immediate 'Digital arrest' and IP address seizure within 24 hours was deemed fake.

Police officials emphasise that criminals frequently impersonate agencies like RBI, CCB, CBI or the police to extort money from the public. Officials have urged citizens not to make quick payments or respond to these claims in panic. **BMB**

Where Food Meets Emotion in Bengaluru

23 Hospitality Leaders Honoured at the VK-BM Food and NightLife Awards

Knowledge Partner
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NARMADA CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS
B.A.R. Mohamed Ali (MD)

"We are delighted to receive the Popular Biryani Dining award in Bengaluru. At Narmada, our focus has always been on maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality while delivering flavours our guests truly enjoy. This recognition strengthens our commitment to serve only the very best."
– On behalf of Mr. B. A. R Mohamed Ali (MD), Mr. B. A. R Usman Ali & Mr. Mahaboob Pasha – Managers

THE NACHIYAR CAFE
Mr. Prakash G, Managing Partner

"It is an honour to represent Nachiyar Café, a pure vegetarian South Indian restaurant. Winning the Best Veg South Indian Café award for the second consecutive year is a proud achievement. We aim to expand our presence across the state and beyond."
– Prakash G, Managing Partner, The Nachiyar Café

"Nandhini has been serving guests for 37 years with the belief that the guest is God. Receiving the award for Exceptional Contribution in the F and B Sector is a proud moment. This recognition belongs to our entire team and to every customer who has supported us over the years."
– Mr. Raju, Mr. Jayaprakash VG and Mr. Lokesh EG, On behalf of MD Mr. Dhanush S.

NANDHINI DELUXE
Mr. Dhanush S, MD

EAT REPEAT INDIA PVT LTD
Mr. Nerall S. Bakhai, CEO & Founder

"We are truly honoured to have received 3 awards. Being recognised again makes it even more special. It is encouraging to see our work appreciated in such a dynamic industry. This motivates us to keep contributing meaningfully, especially in content creation and culinary innovation."
– On behalf of Mr Nerall S Bakhai, Dimple Trivedi, VP Marketing, Macaw By Stories, Moai, Stories Brewery and Kitchen

KAADGAL ECO TOURISM
Mr. Arunesh Gowda K R, Managing Director

"Winning the Popular Eco Tourism Destination award is both proud and humbling for us. It strengthens our commitment to promote responsible, nature friendly tourism while offering meaningful experiences to visitors. This recognition motivates us to continue preserving our natural surroundings."
– Arunesh Gowda K R, Kaadgal Eco Tourism

CHULHA CHAUKI DA DHABA
Mr. RD Yadav & Partners

"This honour belongs to our entire team, guided by our Director Mr RD Yadav. From the kitchen to service, our commitment to authentic North Indian flavours and strict hygiene standards remains unwavering. We thank the organisers for this recognition."
– Niveditha, Food Safety Manager, Chulha Chauki Da Dhaba

SANTHRUPTHI UTTARA KARNATAKA FOOD STORE
Ms. Reshma Gopalakrishna Barki, Proprietor

"We are grateful for this recognition. As a team serving authentic North Karnataka cuisine, it is heartening to see small vendors like us being appreciated. We thank Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for this honour."
– Reshma Gopalakrishna Barki, Santhrupthi Uttara Karnataka Food Store

In Bengaluru, food is never just about a meal. It is about memories of first jobs, late night conversations, family celebrations and friendships built over shared plates. Celebrating this deep emotional connection, the second edition of the VK and BM Food and NightLife Awards, hosted by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, recognised 23 leading food establishments that continue to shape the city's vibrant hospitality culture.

Welcoming the gathering, Sudarshan Channangihalli, Editor of Vijay Karnataka, said the awards were a tribute to those strengthening the city's hospitality sector and thanked readers for their continued support as the publication marks its 27th year. Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka CEO Deepak Saluja described the winners as important contributors to Bengaluru's cultural fabric. He observed that restaurants today are more than business spaces. They are community hubs where professionals, especially from the IT sector, find comfort and connection after demanding workdays.

Chief guest Kripal Amanna, founder of Food Lovers TV, reflected on how hospitality creates lasting impressions. Recalling his first meal in Bengaluru in 1996, he said meaningful dining experiences stay with people for decades. He praised platforms that celebrate the food and beverage industry, adding that recognition motivates entrepreneurs to keep raising standards. Speaking about social media, he encouraged restaurateurs to embrace digital platforms thoughtfully while keeping the focus on authenticity, ingredients and kitchen craftsmanship rather than fleeting trends.

Actor and entrepreneur Viranika Shetty, who heads House of Dakshina, highlighted the rapid growth of the restaurant sector in the city. She noted that while online visibility is important, consistent quality and genuine customer feedback remain the true markers of success. She added that hospitality demands resilience and innovation, and evenings like these encourage the industry to continue striving for excellence.

KANTI SWEETS
Mr. Ashutosh Sharma, Executive Director & Team

"It is an honour to receive this award on behalf of the Kanti family. We remain committed to serving with the same dedication and passion. Our mission is to spread sweetness and joy, and we thank everyone for their continued support."
– On behalf of Mr Ashutosh Sharma, Executive Director, Kanti Sweets

LV JOLAD ROTTI OOTA
Mr. Srinivas More (co-owner) Mr. Mahesh Mailari (co-owner),Mr. Ravikumar More (Partner) & Mr. Susheelkumar Kulkarni (Partner)

"Many restaurants serve Uttara Karnataka (North Karnataka) cuisine, but our strength lies in our dedication to authentic flavours and cultural roots. Each dish reflects the trust our customers place in us. We are honoured to receive recognition on such a prestigious platform."
– Srinivas More, LV Jolad Rotti Oota

KRUTHI ART OF BAKING
Ms. Lavanya V Kotha, Founder & Head Chef

"This award is deeply meaningful as it represents a journey rooted in the belief that eggless baking deserves equal respect and excellence. Through Kruthi – Art of Baking, Asia's only Eggless Bakery Academy, our mission has been to push boundaries and nurture talent. I am grateful to my clients, students and well wishers who have supported this vision."
– Lavanya Venugopal, CEO, Kruthi – Art of Baking

YUMM KERALAM
Mr. Karun Chandy, Proprietor

"We feel privileged to receive this award once again. Our growth is entirely due to the love and support of our customers. It was also a pleasure to celebrate alongside fellow members of the food industry. We thank the organisers for encouraging us."
– Nithin, Head of Operations, on behalf of Mr Karun Chandy, Yumm Keralam

PARI
Mr. Sandeep R, Owner & Mr. Nayak, General Manager

"Though we began just three months ago, Pari has received encouraging support for its diverse vegetarian offerings. This recognition motivates us to further elevate vegetarian dining in the city."
– Naik, Manager, Pari Restaurant

KANTI BAKES & FLAKES
Mr. Venkatesh, General Manager & Team

"We are honoured to receive this recognition from Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror. It reassures us that customers value household quality products made with care. Our focus has always been on preparing homely, handmade offerings without artificial colours or additives, ensuring authenticity and trust."
– Mr Venkatesh, General Manager Factory, Kanti Bakes and Flakes

AKSHATHA NATI STYLE
Mr. Sudheer Shetty, Founder

"I am truly honoured to receive the award for Best Woodfire Mutton Biryani Restaurant in Bengaluru. We carefully select our spices and ingredients to maintain authentic taste while keeping our customers' health in mind. Our goal is to serve food that delights the palate and remains wholesome."
– Sudheer Shetty, Akshatha Nati Style

SILAA THE GARDEN CAFE
Ms. Sahana Sudhakara, CEO

"This recognition gives me and my team immense confidence. Every challenge we faced feels worthwhile in this moment of appreciation. It reassures us that our vision is on the right track, and we are excited about what lies ahead."
– Dr Sahana Sudhakara, CEO, Silaa – The Garden Cafe

KUTUMBA KITCHEN
Mr. Rakshith (Co-founder), Ms. Meghana (Co-founder) & Ms. Varna (Partner)

"We are truly honoured to receive the award for Most Popular Karnataka Cuisine. I dedicate this recognition to my hardworking team whose passion ensures authenticity and consistency in every dish. Our guests have been our biggest support in keeping local flavours alive."
– Rakshith, CEO, Kutumba Kitchen

ESPLANADE
Mr. Subhankar Dhar, Owner

"We are truly honoured to receive the Best Bengali Food award. This recognition means a great deal to our entire team at Esplanade and strengthens our resolve to continue presenting authentic Bengali flavours with passion and consistency."
– Mr. Gautam Samui (Manager) and Tinku Banik (Chef), On behalf of the Owner Mr. Subhankar Dhar, Esplanade

NEW TAAZA THINDI
Mr. Dinesh Gowda, Founder

"We are a proud middle class restaurant committed to serving quality food at affordable prices. This award acknowledges our effort to make good dining accessible to everyone. We thank Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka for appreciating our dedication to value and taste."
– Dinesh Gowda, Proprietor, New Taaza Thindi

THUMBE GOODU RESORT
Mr. BH Rajanna & Ms. Vanaja Rajanna, Managing Partners

"Receiving the Best Nature Retreat award is a proud milestone for us. This recognition inspires us to continue offering memorable experiences amidst nature."
– B H Rajanna, Managing Partner, Thumbe Gooda Resort

SHREE JANANI VEG
Aathithya Ratna Mr. Arunkumar Shetty, Managing Director

"We are honoured to receive this award. Our aim has always been to serve authentic South Indian vegetarian food at reasonable prices while offering a warm space for families to celebrate special moments. This recognition encourages us to maintain quality, affordability and heartfelt hospitality. We thank our customers for their continued trust."
– Arunkumar Shetty, Managing Director, Shree Janani Hotel Groups

TODZ
Mr. Jayan Narayan (Founder & CEO), Mr. Satyajit Ghosh (Founder & COO) & Mr. Ashish Jacob (Founder & CAO)

"We are extremely encouraged by this recognition. As a young brand, we were curious about how serving toddy would be received in Bengaluru. In fact, 'Todz' reflects our core concept itself. We sincerely thank Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for acknowledging our efforts and supporting us on this journey."
– Ashish Jacob, Chief Administration Officer, Todz, Kerala RestoPub

It is getting hot in here

As March has arrives, it has brought with it the beginning of the summer across Karnataka. According to a post shared by social media handle Namma Karnataka Weather, the state is now transitioning into warmer days, with temperatures gradually climbing in several districts.

Weather data from February 28 shows that many parts of north interior Karnataka have already recorded high maximum temperatures. Raichur touched 37°C, Kalaburagi recorded 36.6°C, while Gadag and Bidar crossed the 34°C mark. Coastal and Malnad regions remained relatively moderate, though humidity levels continue to stay high along the coast.

The social media update notes that the west coast districts are likely to begin March with above-normal temperature spikes. Cities such as Mangaluru, Karwar and Honnavar may see warmer-than-usual days in the first week itself.

However, the heat is expected to spread gradually to the rest of the state, including Bengaluru, Mysuru and other interior districts.

In Bengaluru, maximum temperatures were around 31–33°C at different observatories, slightly fluctuating from normal levels. Night temperatures remain comfortable for now but are also expected to rise steadily as the month progresses.

Interestingly, while summer sets in, there is a small possibility of light rainfall during the first 15 days of March. As per the ECM rainfall accumulation chart shared by the weather page, parts of Kerala and some Malnad regions of Karnataka could receive light pre-summer showers. These rains, if they occur, may bring brief relief from the rising heat.

A lot of netizens went upto social media posting bright pictures of sunlight, while also pictures of trees providing shade to many Bengaluru roads.

Overall, March marks the clear start of summer for Karnataka, and residents can expect hotter afternoons in the coming days. Health professionals advise staying hydrated and prepared as temperatures trend upward across the state. **BMB**

Authorities fail to contain campus fires

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leaves burning ruin the image of the University. It also shows the commitment and administrative capacity of the University in poor light. Fire mishaps are taking place on a regular basis but the authorities have done nothing to end this menace. I also found dry waste and garbage dumped on the campus," said Gowdaiah, a social activist.

Expressing concern about frequent fire mishaps on campus, Renuka Prasad, an environmentalist, said the campus has a fire station but the firemen could not extinguish fires as they do not have the required equipment. "Though a fire station exists on the campus, it serves no purpose because a fire tender cannot enter the forest or the biopark where fire mishaps take place every year during summer.

The fire station badly needs a jeep fire engine that can enter the biopark. I think we would have to scout for private companies who can sponsor a jeep fire engine," said Renuka Prasad.

Coming down heavily on University administration for not taking measures to protect trees on campus, a social activist said the rusty board - Evergreen Forest - indicates the commitment and dedication of the authorities concerned. "The status of the rusted board mirrors the apathy of the authorities, who are just protecting their own vested interests rather than saving trees on the campus," the environmentalist said.

The rusted board at the Biopark says it all

KAUSHIK JN

Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jayakara Shetty condemned those responsible for setting dry leaves on fire. "A miscreant might have thrown a cigarette butt on the dry leaves thus causing damage to the trees and saplings.

We have directed security guards to keep a vigil on such people. We also directed the security guards to inform the fire station or the administration immediately if they come across an incident of fire on the campus," said Prof. Jayakara Shetty.

But, Assistant Fire Safety Officer of Nagarbhavi Fire Station aka Jnanabharathi Fire Station told BM that he has already informed higher authorities about the shortage of fire tenders. "My superiors have assured me that we would be allocated a fire tender and a jeep fire engine. I am expecting to receive these vehicles by next week," the Assistant Fire Safety Officer said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHABANA MAKTUMSAB GOLANDAJ, W/o UMAR MUQTHAR S, R/o D S Max Stonehill, A4 Block, 301 Door No, Kanakapura Road, Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar,Near Anjanapura Fire Station, Bengaluru - 560062 have changed my name to SHABANA GOLANDAJ for all future purposes

I, S. Natarajan S/o R. Sethuraman, Flat No. 205, Mayur Paradise, Rama Temple Road, New Thippasandra, Bangalore -560 075 have changed my name as Natarajan Sethuraman for all purposes.

I, ASIT KUMAR PANDEY, S/o ATUL KUMAR PANDEY, R/o Bhadava, Saidabad, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh 221508. I have changed my name to ASIT KUMAR for all future purposes

I, SOUMYA SHIVARAJ ALASHETTY, Residing at No 1134/35, 26th Main, 35th "C" Cross, Jayanagar 4th "T" Block, Bengaluru-560041, Have changed my name to SOUMYA ALASHETTY vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, DEEPA I A, D/O ANNAPPA I K, R/O NO 2 ROOM NO 8, 4TH C CROSS, KASTURINAGAR, CHANNASANDRA, HORAMAVU, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA, 560043. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM DEEPA I A TO DEEPA ADITYA MALEWAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

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SINGAPORE MALAYSIA/THAILAND* 7/11* DAYS MAR: 5, 24 APR: 6, 20 MAY: 4, 18
BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS MAR: 12 APR: 1, 12, 26
BHUTAN 8 DAYS MAR: 24 APR: 21 MAY: 19
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS MAR: 21 APR: 11, 25 MAY: 9, 23
VIETNAM 8 DAYS APR: 12 / BALI 7 DAYS MAR: 23 APR: 6
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS MAR: 10 APR: 14 MAY: 5
ANDAMAN 6 DAYS MAR: 4 APR: 14
KAILASH MANSAROVAR 14 DAYS MAY: 21 JUNE: 25

50-km of footpaths on the cards for Mahadevapura

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to develop 50 km of safe and pedestrian-friendly footpaths in Mahadevapura zone within the next two months. He issued the instructions after flagging off a 10-km walkathon from Phoenix Mall to Hope Farm in Whitefield on Saturday. The stretch falls along the Purple Line metro corridor, and Rao emphasised that priority must be given to developing footpaths in areas connected by metro services to ensure seamless last-mile connectivity for commuters.

Speaking at the event, Rao said that obstructions on footpaths, issues arising from road widening, and other encroachments must be identified and cleared to enable safe pedestrian movement.

He assured that adequate funds would be allocated for footpath development and suggested that, wherever necessary, works could be expedited through partnerships with corporate organisations.

He also instructed officials to submit phased evaluation reports on the progress of the 50-km footpath development project in Mahadevapura. Regular assessments, he noted, would help monitor implementation and ensure accountability.

The walk was part of 'Project Walkaluru', an initiative launched on November 1 to promote pedestrian safety and assess the condition of footpaths across the city. So far, walks have been conducted in Shivajinagar (11 km), Koramangala (5 km), Jayanagar (5 km), Banaswadi (5 km), Thanisandra (8 km), Yelahanka (10 km), and Bengaluru South, covering a total of 88 km. Saturday's event marked the 11th walk under the initiative, with the civic body aiming to complete 100 km of inspections in the coming month. **BMB**

Waste segregation champ

The Rajajinagar Assembly Constituency has achieved an impressive 95% waste segregation rate, from its earlier 61%.

Local MLA S Suresh Kumar felicitated Karigowda, CEO Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), at an event on Saturday, praising the efforts of the officials and public participation in the efficient door-to-door collection system.

The constituency which covers seven wards is supported by 14 robust feet compactors, along with 137 auto tippers, 274 drivers and 347 pourakarmikas whose efforts brought this drive into reality. As per Karigowda, the collection drive starts at 5.30 am with RFID-based(Radio Frequency Identification) attendance and is completed by 10.30 am. **BMB**

Tribal languages at threat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the forest-based livelihoods of the Jenu Kurumba and Soliga communities, and the African-origin heritage of the Siddis.

The Ministry also noted that Sahitya Akademi continues to promote literature in 24 recognised languages and several tribal tongues through translation programmes, awards and oral-literature documentation centres. However, the challenge with Karnataka's endangered languages is not literary output but dwindling speaker populations and the absence of intergenerational transfer.

As communities become increasingly urbanised or displaced from forest landscapes, these languages risk losing both vocabulary and cultural context.

Experts say the new focus triggered by the Lok Sabha reply may help revive attention to the state's lesser-known linguistic groups. With CIIL Mysuru already serving as India's principal research hub, Karnataka is uniquely positioned to lead preservation work — but the real test lies in whether documentation can translate into active use, education-level integration and community-led revival.

Sanju Samson's 97 ensures India reach West Indies total of 195 with ease

India seal semifinal spot

1. India's Hardik Pandya and teammates celebrate the wicket of West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford
2. India's captain Suryakumar Yadav, right, and Sanju Samson run between the wickets during the match at the Eden Gardens, in Kolkata on Sunday
3. Fans in the stands display an India flag during the match
4. India's Sanju Samson looks to the heavens after India's win

Sanju Samson struck a magnificent unbeaten 97 as India beat West Indies by five wickets in a must-win Super 8 clash to book their semifinal berth at the T20 World Cup, here on Sunday.

Asked to bat first, West Indies posted a competitive 195 for four, riding on contributions from Roston Chase (40), Shai Hope (32), Jason Holder (37 not out) and Rovman Powell (34 not out).

In reply, Samson produced a chasing masterclass, hammering 12 fours and four sixes in his scintillating 50-ball knock as India overhauled the target with four balls to spare.

He found solid support in Tilak Varma (27), Suryakumar Yadav (18) and Hardik Pandya (17), who ensured there were no late hiccups.

Jasprit Bumrah (2/36) was the pick of the Indian bowlers with two crucial wickets, while Jason Holder (2/38) and Shamar Joseph (2/42) also claimed two scalps for West Indies.

Sahibazada Farhan to achieve this feat in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Farhan is the leading run-scorer of the tournament with 383 runs. He has hit 18 sixes and 37 fours in the tournament, including two centuries.

Hetmyer is the fourth leading run-scorer of the tournament so far with 248 runs. He has hit 19 sixes and 16 fours for the West Indies in this edition.

The third and fourth name in the list of most sixes in a single edition also belongs to West Indies players. Nicholas Pooran is in third place with 17 sixes in the last edition. Chris Gayle is fourth with 16 sixes in the 2012 edition. Rahmanullah Gurbaz of Afghanistan is in joint fourth with 16 sixes (2024).

West Indies were asked to bat first, and a majestic 76-run partnership between Jason Holder and Rovman Powell for the fifth wicket propelled West Indies to 195/4 in their last Super 8 fixture.

Powell slammed 34 off just 19 balls, including three fours and two sixes, while Holder smashed 37 off 22 balls, laced with two fours and three sixes. A target of 196 stands between India and the semi-final spot.

Hetmyer was starting to flex his muscles, and had hit two sixes and a four, but ended up nicking a ball angling away from him to the wicketkeeper. He made 27 runs off just 12 balls. **–Agencies**

West Indies
195/4
(20)

India
199/5
(19.2)

Hetmyer's record

West Indies batter Shimron Hetmyer displayed his destructive power-hitting and became the first player to hit 19 sixes in a single edition of the T20 World Cup.

Hetmyer now has the most sixes in a single T20 World Cup edition. He hit a couple of sixes in the do-or-die Super Eight clash against India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Sunday.

He overtook Pakistan's

Lone unbeaten team marches into semis

South Africa carried their unbeaten record into the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals after overcoming an inspired all-round performance from Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza to win by five wickets in their Super Eights clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

Raza struck a superb 73 off 43 balls to take Zimbabwe to 153/7 before returning with figures of 3-29, including striking twice in power-play, to leave South Africa in early trouble at 43/3. Dewald Brevis steadied the chase with a blistering 42 from 18 deliveries, hitting four sixes and two fours to swing momentum back towards the Proteas.

David Miller added a quick 22 before Blessing Muzarabani and Raza took a scalp each wicket to keep Zimbabwe in contention. South Africa's lower order ensured there was no late drama. George Linde finished unbeaten on 30 alongside Tristan Stubbs on 21 as the Proteas sealed victory with 13 balls to spare. The result means South Africa advance to the semi-finals in Kolkata against New Zealand as the only side yet to lose in the tournament.

In the afternoon, on a pitch with some smattering of grass, Raza entertained 17,500 fans by dominating the innings with some sublime timing and placement of his shots. He struck 12 of Zimbabwe's 13 boundaries during his stay at the crease from overs 5-17. Apart from his knock, only wicketkeeper Clive Madande offered some resistance with an unbeaten 26 off 20 balls.

It was because South Africa's bowlers kept the rest of the line-up in check, with teenaged left-arm quick Kwena Maphaka impressing and finding some movement via 2-21 while Corbin Bosch chipped in with 2-40. Electing to bat first, Tadiwanashe Marumani left everyone amused by attempting a one-handed reverse sweep.

Though he didn't connect with the ball after clipping George Linde on the first ball, Marumani didn't last long as he lost his leg-stump while trying to hoick Kwena Maphaka across the line. The in-form Brian Bennett enthralled everyone with sublime timing on his lofted whip and pull off Linde and Lungi Ngidi respectively. But Anrich Nortje took him out with a 145.8 kph delivery which Bennett could only loft to mid-off.

Zimbabwe
153/7
(20)

South Africa
154/5
(17.5)

With Dion Myers put on a stern test by Maphaka, Raza immediately got going by with a streaky edge on a drive going past backward point for four off Corbin Bosch.

South Africa's chase began with a huge jolt when Quinton de Kock was undone by a slower ball from Raza which found grip, and had him chopping into the gloves of Tadiwanashe Marumani. Raza struck again in his second over when his carrom ball kept low and sneaked through Aiden Markram's bat to castle him for just four.

Ryan Rickelton, though, launched a counter-attack by thumping Raza down the ground for six, before taking a blow to the helmet from Brad Evans. Rickelton then managed to clear the boundary ropes thrice for maximums, before going too early into the shot off Evans and Ryan Burl took a superb acrobatic catch at deep midwicket.

Zimbabwe, though, kept clawing back, but Linde and Stubbs steered the Proteas home to continue their unbeaten run in the tournament. **–IANS**

South African players shake hands with Zimbabwe players after winning the match at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday

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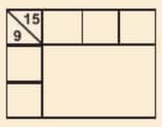
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$-8x^2 - 14x - 5 = 0$
X=?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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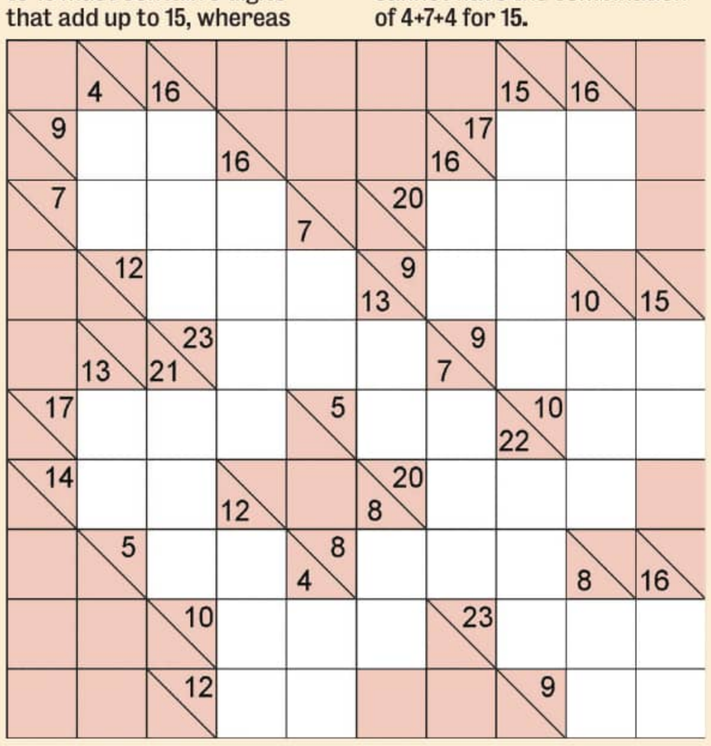
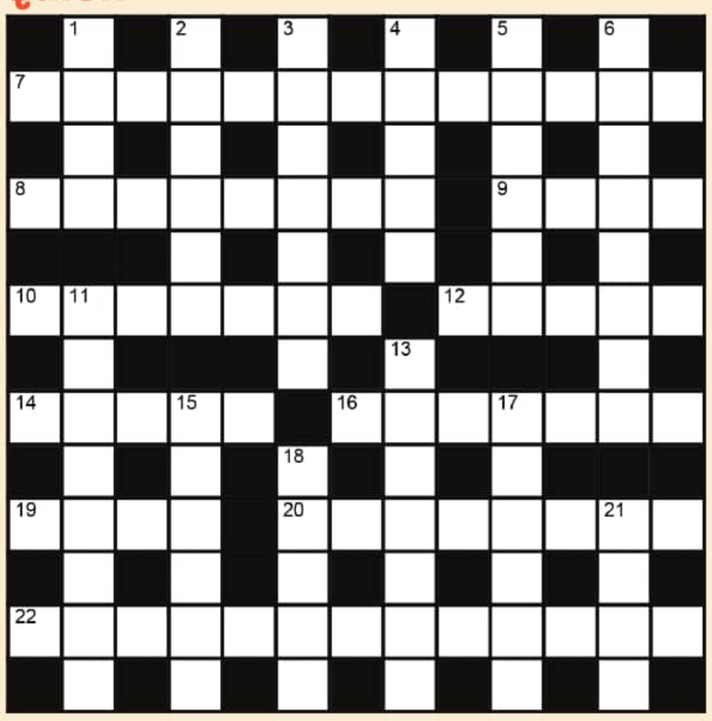


Quick



ACROSS

7 Trepidation (13)
8 Journalist (8)
9 Privy to (2,2)
10 Lunar surface features (7)
12 Water holes (5)
14 Open to view (5)
16 Inert pill (7)
19 Dejected (4)
20 Yearned after (8)
22 Kind (6-7)

DOWN

1 Bird of peace (4)
2 Accompany (6)
3 Dancer's body-suit (7)
4 Entrap (5)
5 Industrial action (6)
6 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
11 Mutinied (8)
13 Quick looks (7)
15 Cure (6)
17 Good-humoured (6)
18 Coast (5)
21 Wide-___ : surprised; naive? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

OXJNXEYXMR XJ ZKR
IRHXMXMA HXIR UF LKXNK
ZCYRMZ URNQBRJ CUXYXZF.

Linemaro

Like a raindrop, I'm falling for you

Mindchow

It will never rain roses: when we want to have more roses we must plant more trees

Joke of the day

Snobs talk as if they had begotten their ancestors

Loop

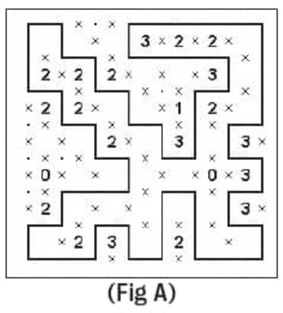
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

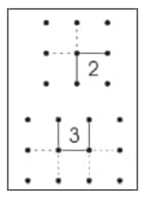
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

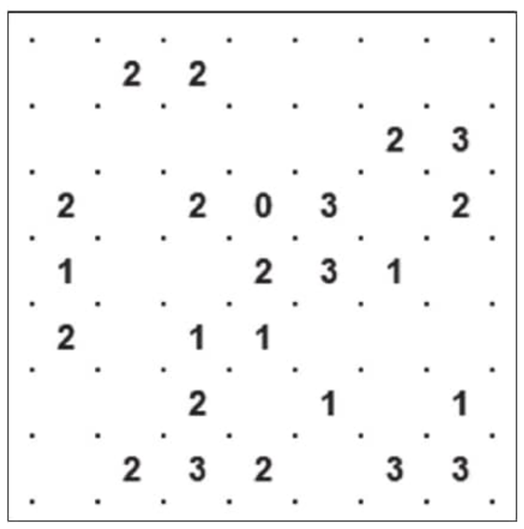
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



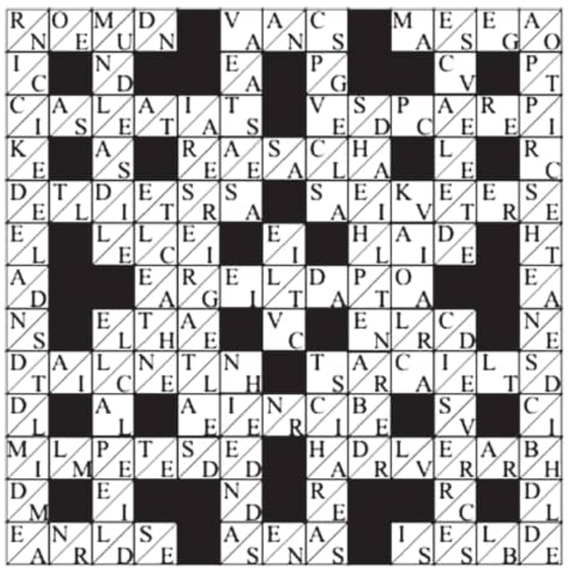
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



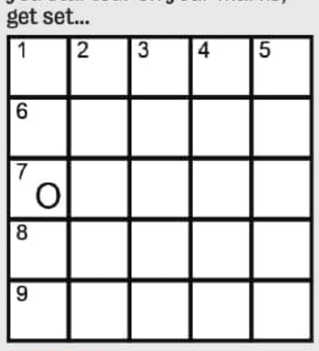
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

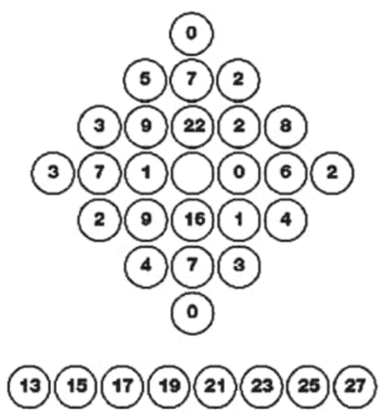
1 Caaba; 6 Irate;
7 Red do; 8 In EEC;
9 Bream

DOWN

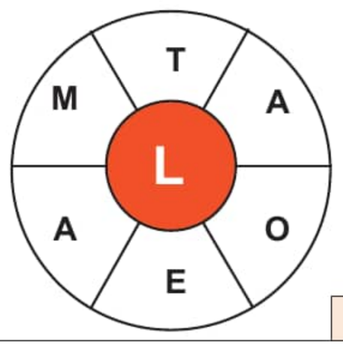
1 Notae; 2 Imbed;
3 Beard; 4 Ace A/C;
5 A err I

Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6			4	9	2	3		7
					1	6	9	
		1						5
5		7			3			
3								1
			7			2		6
1						8		
	8	3	6					
4		6	3	8	7			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 11

4 5 7 9

Medium

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 9

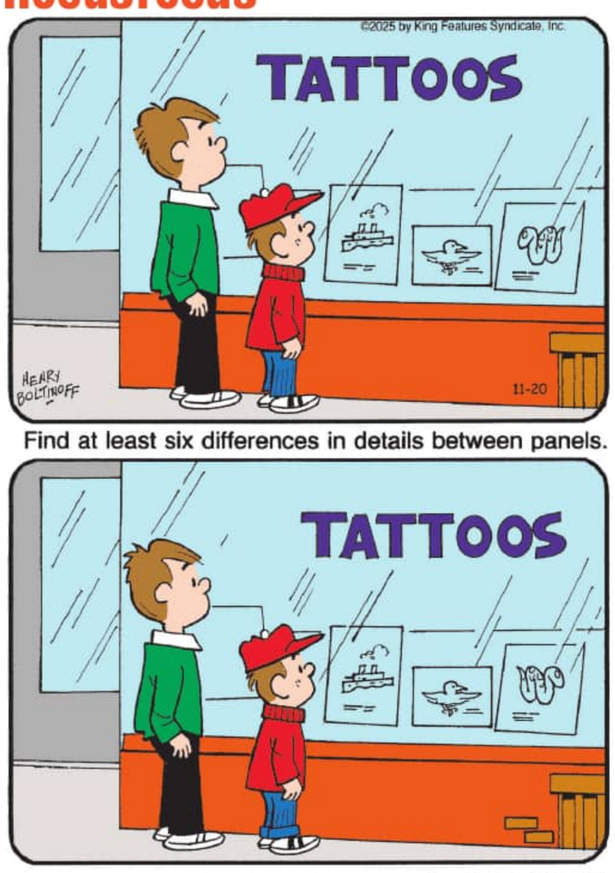
2 3 6 9

Hard

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 2

2 3 8 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

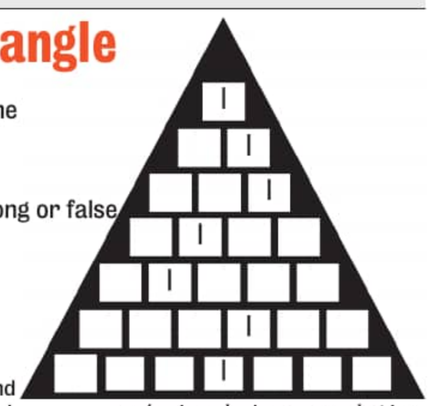
Differences: 1. Snake is reversed. 2. Boy is moved. 3. Cuffs are added to pants. 4. Hair is different. 5. Word on window is moved. 6. Bricks are added.

Riddler

I'm found in the ballet. I'm a dance or a room. I'm also hidden in A helium balloon. If you're having fun, You might have one of me. Hard and soft and basket, Foot and base and tee. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Maui garland
4 Canards
5 Resentments
6 Proves to be wrong or false
7 Convictions

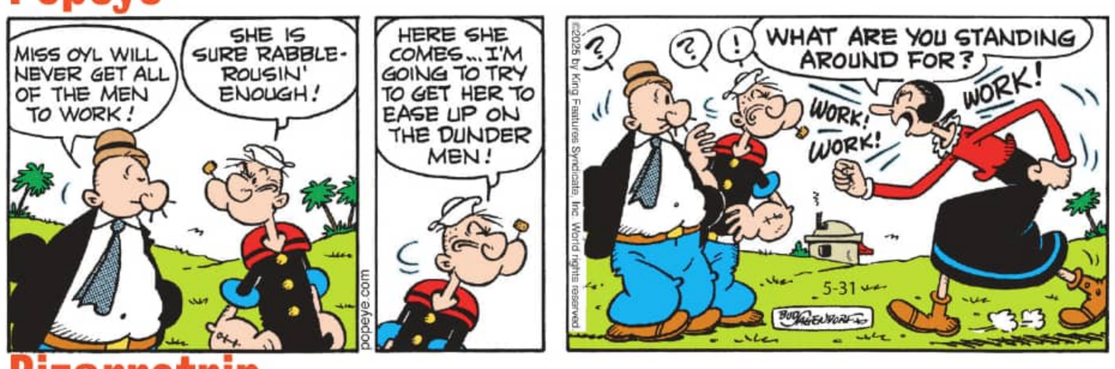


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

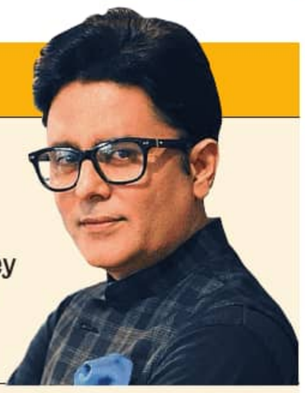
Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your natural sensitivity becomes your strength today. Love flows through empathy and thoughtful gestures. Professionally, collaboration opens fresh possibilities. Money matters improve through mindful planning. A short journey or spontaneous outing refreshes your spirit. Domestic spaces feel nurturing, inspiring creativity and calm. Balance between giving and receiving sets the tone for growth and emotional fulfillment.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

An attractive offer may arise, but wisdom demands deeper reflection before irreversible choices. Today, it's important to tread carefully in relationships and avoid impulsive commitments right now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

You are not obliged to reveal everything, yet gentle openness with trusted people could help. Guard your heart carefully, sharing vulnerabilities only with family members and friends who truly deserve access.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Your public standing looks solid, but planetary warnings urge caution with bosses and seniors. Avoid over sharing ambitions, reveal only essentials, and protect long-term goals from misuse or misunderstanding now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Before embracing a new career direction, understand its demands fully. Delaying plans may benefit you, as upcoming shifts will reshape circumstances and influence opportunities more favourably later on.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Soon you may need to speak blunt truths to someone you love. Though painful now, honesty prevents greater harm later, while comforting lies could damage their future choices significantly.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Seek expert guidance before committing large sums of money. Persistent doubts signal intuition warning against a weak investment, so pause, reassess risks carefully, and avoid costly mistakes.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

A simple issue feels endlessly complicated, looping without resolution. Step back, gain perspective, and consider whether forward movement is necessary yet, or patience serves a higher purpose.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Forgiveness has limits, and tolerance should not invite harm. In the coming days, confront selfish behaviour directly to protect your interests and prevent deeper problems from forming later.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Recent generosity has drained your energy reserves. Prioritise rest and self-care this week, remembering you are not responsible for fixing everything or carrying everyone else's burdens.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

The stars urge simplifying life across all areas. Begin by stopping unnecessary help for others, allowing friends and family to manage responsibilities they should reasonably handle themselves.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Someone declining your plans isn't being difficult; they have priorities too. Respect their space now, remain flexible, and suggest collaboration later when timing aligns better for everyone.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Exercise caution with money matters now. Today heightens risk of misplaced trust, so avoid speculative investments and protect yourself from losses caused by optimism overriding judgment.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Multiply by -1 :
$8x^2 + 14x + 5 = 0$
Factor :
$(2x + 1)(4x + 5) = 0$
Either :
$2x + 1 = 0$
$2x = -1$
$x = -1/2$
or :
$4x + 5 = 0$
$4x = -5$
$x = -5/4$
So : $x = -1/2$ or $x = -5/4$

QUOTE UNCODE

Discipline is the refining fire by which talent becomes ability.

FAST FIVE

A	B	A	C	A
T	E	R	A	I
O	D	D	E	R
N	I	E	C	E
E	M	B	A	R

STRIKE OUT

K	A	R	E	A	C	H	■	L	■	R	■	■	■	■
C	A	L	A	I	S	■	E	S	C	A	R	P	■	■
I	■	N	■	A	■	P	■	C	■	P	■	■	■	■
N	O	U	N	■	V	A	S	■	A	S	E	A	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	L	D	E	R	S	■	S	E	V	E	R	E	■	■
L	■	E	L	I	D	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	A	G	I	T	A	T	O	■	E	■	■	■	■
N	■	E	T	A	■	C	■	E	L	D	N	■	■	■
D	A	L	E	T	H	■	T	R	A	I	T	S	■	■
I	M	P	E	D	E	■	A	D	V	E	R	B	■	■
M	■	I	■	■	D	■	R	■	■	R	■	L	■	■
E	N	D	S	■	S	E	A	■	I	S	L	E	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

K. Moving clockwise in alternate sections, letters advance by 6 or 5 places.

RIDDLER

Ball

BULL'S EYE

aloe, lama, lame, late, loam, male, malt, meal, melt, metal, mole, motel, OATMEAL, tale, tamale, teal

SUDOKU

6	5	8	4	9	2	3	1	7
2	3	4	5	7	1	6	9	8
7	9	1	8	3	6	4	2	5
5	6	7	1	2	3	9	8	4
3	4	2	9	6	8	5	7	1
8	1	9	7	5	4	2	3	6
1	7	5	2	4	9	8	6	3
9	8	3	6	1	5	7	4	2
4	2	6	3	8	7	1	5	9

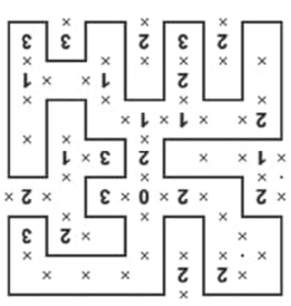
ALPHA TRIANGLE

I, LI, Lei, Lies, Biles, Belles, Beliefs.

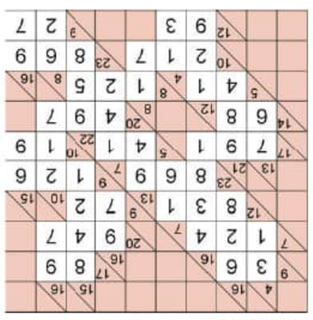
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 9 + 5 − 7 = 11
Medium
9 × 2 − 6 − 3 = 9
Hard
8 × 3 / 6 − 2 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO



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Take a raincheck

Bollywood stars who turned down Hollywood projects

Several Bollywood stars have flirted with the idea of making their way westward and starring in popular Hollywood films and web series. Over the years, several Bollywood stars have chosen to step away for reasons ranging from scheduling conflicts to creative preferences, comfort levels, or simply because they didn't want to audition for the part. From Deepika Padukone to Ranbir Kapoor and Aishwarya Rai, here's a look at some prominent Indian actors who bowed out of big Hollywood projects. **–ETimes**

Deepika Padukone - The White Lotus

Weeks after news spread of Deepika Padukone possibly joining the cast of the Emmy-winning anthology series 'The White Lotus', reports this week stated that the actress bowed out of the part. As per Variety India, the star opted not to audition for the part in Season 4, closing the door on what would have been another high-profile Hollywood project after her debut in 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage'.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan - Troy

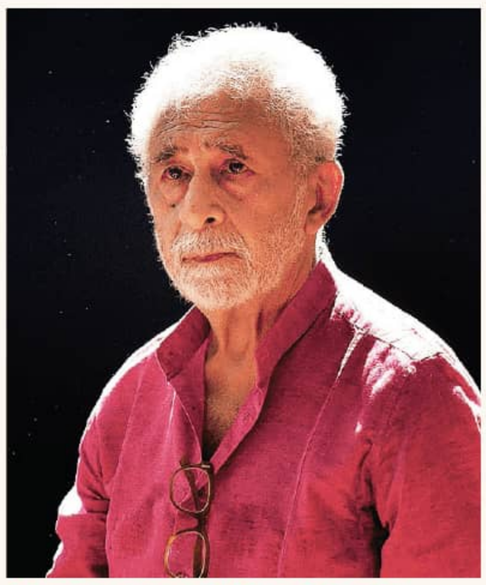
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was among the first Indian actresses to make it big in Hollywood. She starred in several international projects, including the comedy 'Pink Panther'. However, when she was offered the role of Briseis opposite Brad Pitt in the Hollywood epic 'Troy', she declined the part. As per reports, the actress allegedly turned down the role as she was uncomfortable with the required intimate scenes and due to her pre-existing commitments to Indian films. The role eventually went to Rose Byrne.

Ranbir Kapoor - Star Wars

Take a look back at gossip columns and you'll known that Ranbir Kapoor was once offered a chance to star in a supporting role in the legendary 'Star Wars' series. However, the actor's Hollywood dreams did not take flight, reportedly due to his discomfort over auditioning for the part. In a chat with Rajeev Masand, Ranbir shared that he had a deep-seated fear of the auditioning process. He admitted, "What if I get rejected? It's more a fear of not having that much faith in my talent."

Irrfan Khan - Interstellar

Critically acclaimed actor Irrfan Khan, seamlessly transitioned between Bollywood and Hollywood film projects. Apart from his many roles, he was also offered a role in 'Interstellar', which he eventually turned down due to scheduling conflicts with his Indian films - 'The Lunchbox' and 'D-Day'. The part eventually went to Matt Damon.



Naseeruddin Shah - Harry Potter

Did you know that Naseeruddin Shah was approached for the role of Professor Dumbledore in the Harry Potter films? The actor was reportedly approached after the death of Richard Harris. "My agent wanted me to audition for Dumbledore's character... But I wouldn't audition for it" Shah told the Times of India back in 2016. Shah ultimately did not audition, and the role was later played by Michael Gambon.

'INCREDIBLY AVERAGE'

Actor Cillian Murphy is stoic in the perfect sense. The actor, who is known for his extremely introverted personality, thinks he is "an incredibly average person".

The 'Peaky Blinders' star has little interest in Hollywood fame and confessed that he is "really bad" at being on the red carpet and giving interviews about himself, reports 'Female First UK'.

Cillian, 49, told The Times newspaper, "Being a personality is not what I am good at. "But then existing in this world? Talking about yourself, going on f****** red carpets? It's not healthy if you start to believe this s***, and I'm really bad at it too. I'm an incredibly average person, really".

Cillian will celebrate his 50th birthday in May and admits that he has been contemplating a "really interesting" stage of his life. The Oppenheimer actor, who has sons Malachy, 20, and Aran, 18, with his wife Yvonne McGuinness, said, "Middle age is really interesting. You've had children and been successful and then hit this certain age and think, all right, this is the first time I've got less time left than I've had so far on this planet. I'm turning 50 in a few months, so I do think, well, what do I do now? Hopefully I can just be a reasonable dad and husband, and then, when it comes, still take the work incredibly seriously". **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Comeback time

Director-cum-actor Samuthirakani is set to make a comeback to Sandalwood after a gap of three years in the role of an antagonist in the film Kavala. Crazy Star Ravichandran sounded the clapboard at the film's muhurat function.

Samuthirakani directed Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer Yaare Koogadali that was released in 2012 and played the villain in Kabzaa. "I cherish the moments when I got to direct Yaare Koogadali in which Puneeth Rajkumar played the lead. I can speak Kannada but not fluently. I will play the villain in this movie," said Samuthirakani.

Kavala is supported by Lokesh B and Adavaiah Poojar under the Radhakrishna Arts and Dream World Cinemas banners. Srijai, known for the films RX Soori and Bhairadevi, is the director for Kavala.

"A few real incidents inspired me to write the script for this movie. We have chalked out a plan for filming the movie in and around Kashi, Hyderabad and other locations," said Srijai.

Passion for movies

Director-cum-producer Gururaj Kulkarni (Nadagoud), who has been associated with Sandalwood for more than 15 years, is set to prove his mettle by not only helming but also supporting the movie Dear Husband. It will be his second film as a director after Crazy Star Ravichandran-starrer The Judgement that was released in 2024.

Kulkarni, who hails from Sindagi, a small town in Vijayapura, has spent considerable time abroad working for various companies, but his passion for supporting movies made him bankroll the films Accident, Last Bus, Amruth Apartments, and The Judgement. "I worked for Wipro, Hewlett-Packard and other MNCs. My passion for movies made me bankroll Accident in 2008. Ramesh Aravind directed it apart from playing the pivotal role," said Kulkarni.

Now, Kulkarni gears up to prove his direction skills. "A few incidents that took place in London inspired me to write the script for Dear Husband. The movie is about bonding and breakups between a husband and wife and it connects to all audiences across the world. Dear Husband is set to go on floors from March 9," he said.

He plans to film Dear Husband in and around Mysuru and Goa.